



ATTACHMENT B

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (currently amended) A method to observe glass sheets and to regulate the heating effect of heating elements for the glass sheets in a sheet glass hardening furnace, which furnace comprises a glass heating section capable of receiving multiple glass sheets, a transportation rail to transport the glass sheets in a transport direction to and from the heating section where the heating elements heat the glass sheets by means of radiation and an air blasts, and a furnace control system to carry out thea hardening process of the glass sheets, said method comprising the steps of:

positioning longitudinal blast channels, which produce the air blasts, longitudinally along the transport direction in the heating section,

locating measuring instruments, which measure air temperatures in the heating section above the glass transportation rail, along a plurality of longitudinal observation lines, and disposing the observation lines side by side and longitudinally parallel to associated longitudinal blast channels in the heating section,

observing a location area in the glass heating section of the furnace of one or more glass sheets along the observation lines, said observing step including the step of watching for the one or more glass sheets from the glass sheet level with the measuring instruments, which measure air temperatures in the heating section above the glass transportation rail whereby a lowered temperature measured by a measuring instrument of an associated observation line is indicative of the presence of a glass sheet to be heated along the associated observation line, and

raising the heating effect of the heating elements by regulation with the control system at the location area or areas of the one or more glass sheets observed by said observing step.

2. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein detectors of the temperature measuring instruments are located in the furnace one after another essentially in aalong each observation line in a course direction of the glass sheets.

3. (canceled)

4. (currently amended) A method according to claim 2, wherein there are at least three detectors one after another in the same observation line.

5. (currently amended) A method according to claim 2, wherein the detectors are located about 10–50 mm above the glass transportation rail.

6. (currently amended) A method according to claim 3-2, wherein, as a temperature reading of each line, the average is calculated from the reading of all detectors of the observation line.

7. (currently amended) A method according to claim 6, wherein from the temperature average of each observation line the glass load is concluded.

8. (currently amended) A method according to claim 6, wherein the temperature averages are calculated during the heating cycle and the effect of the heating elements of a preferred observation line is regulated depending on the temperature average calculated during heating.

9. (currently amended) A method according to claim 2, wherein the temperature-measuring detectors are placed above the glass transportation rail to measure the air temperature and to have free radiation contact down onto the glass transportation rail-(3).